



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

SBA Disaster Assistance – Field Operations Center- East – 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303

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SBA DISASTER LOAN DEADLINE IS MARCH 27 ***SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS STILL HAVE TIME TO APPLY***

ATLANTA -The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding businesses that **March 27** is the filing deadline for federal economic injury disaster loans that are available to small businesses located in Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Barnwell, Edgefield, Hampton, Jasper, McCormick and Oconee counties in the State of South Carolina for drought beginning January 1, 2007 and continuing.

“These counties are eligible because they are contiguous to one or more primary counties in the State of Georgia. The Small Business Administration recognizes that disasters do not usually stop at the county or state lines. For that reason, counties adjacent to primary counties named in the declaration are included,” according to Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

The SBA’s disaster declaration was issued as a result of a similar action taken by the Secretary of Agriculture to help farmers recover from this disaster. Under this declaration, the SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program is available to farm-related and non-farm related small business concerns and small agricultural cooperatives that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible to apply to the SBA. Nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans for losses caused by drought conditions.

Eligible small businesses may qualify for loans up to \$1.5 million. These loans are available at a 4 percent interest rate with loan terms up to 30 years. The SBA determines eligibility for the program based on the size and type of business and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based upon each applicant’s financial condition. Under this disaster declaration, the SBA cannot provide loans to agricultural producers.

Interested business owners should contact the SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing-impaired) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Business loan applications can also be downloaded from www.sba.gov. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Completed loan applications must be returned to the SBA no later than March 27, 2008.

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For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at www.sba.gov.